

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**LISTING OF CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) An axial shaft seal disposed between a housing wall and a rotating shaft, the axial shaft seal comprising:  
an outer ring insertable into the housing wall in a stationary and sealing manner, the outer ring including a sleeve including a polymer material having a curved bellows form and providing a spring, the curved bellows form extending radially inward over its entire length, a radially inward end portion of the sleeve having a first sealing surface; and  
an inner ring connectable to the shaft in a non-twisting and sealing manner and including a ring flange extending radially outward so as to provide a second sealing surface for axially mating the first sealing surface,  
wherein the spring urges the first sealing surface against the second sealing surface; and  
the inward end portion deviates from a radial normal direction by up to a maximum of 30°, when not axially mating the second sealing surface.

2. (Previously Presented) The axial shaft seal as recited in claim 1, wherein the inward end portion of the sleeve includes a circumscribing ring extending in a radial direction.